

REMARKS

This subject application does not claim the priority of the European application. This application is directed to an improvement of the related application serial no. 10/615,263 for which Texas Instruments does claim priority of the European application. The improvement a license proxy software that is provided that will act as a rely agent and route all connections from contractor zone into the Intranet.

The objected specification informalities have been amended.

Claims 2 through 10 are canceled and claims 11 through 14 are added.

Claim 1 is amended to clearly define the preamble and the body of the claim. This objection is therefore deemed overcome.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Mikurak (U.S. Patent no. 6,671,818; hereinafter Mikurak).

Claim 1 calls for "A method for providing a secure access of a partner to the development environment of an owner comprising the steps of : starting a VPN tunnel between workstations to establish a secure encrypted tunnel end to end wherein each partner is identified with a different VPN group/password; starting a session by the partner in a Web page on a portal machine that authenticates through LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) a user identification and password of a user; routing the session to an engagement box depending on the user where the engagement boxes each include a server with an operating system and are on network segments separated by firewall boxes with another logon/password and is validated through second LDAP and wherein all users of the same partner are all launching on

the same engagement box; accessing data and applications from engagement box on Network File system storage authenticated second LDAP to a design zone common resource of said owner with a big compute farm composed of many high-end servers in a secure way, submitting batch or interactive jobs to said design zone ; and providing for each application host in said design zone a highly secure access to EDA licenses from license servers with dynamically changing access ports of said owner inside an Intranet of said owner without opening all such access ports for all hosts and creating a security risk comprising the steps of: providing a license proxy server in said design zone that dynamically determines the addresses of the changing access ports of the license servers in said Intranet; and said application hosts inside said design zone contacting the license proxy server which in turn fetches the appropriate EDA licenses from said license servers in said Intranet of said owner.”

Mikurak does not teach a design zone as claimed. Mikurak does not teach “providing a license proxy server in said design zone that dynamically determines the addresses of the changing access ports of the license servers in said Intranet.” Mikurak does not teach “application hosts inside said design zone contacting the license proxy server which in turn fetches the appropriate licenses from said Intranet.” The examiner references Column 117, lines 54-67 and Col. 118, lines 1-5. This part of the reference just explains the concept of how a generic license server operates. Generic proxy solutions are available in the market do not work with FLEXLM, which is widely used by EDA vendors, due to the fact that the license servers use random ports and the firewall configurations that allow TCP connections have to be wide open. This proxy server has to work differently and has to have the dynamic learning of port changes and adapt to the

port changes. This teaching removes the need to open a wide range of TCP ports from client to EDA license sever and therefore improves security. In view of the above applicant's claim 1, as amended, is deemed allowable.

Claim 11 calls for "providing a license proxy server inside the design zone that listens on the FLEXLM manager port; intercepting EDA license requests by the application host by said proxy server and said proxy server initiating a connection to said manager daemon of said license server on behalf of the application host and FLEXLM responding with port number of the vendor daemon in a reply packet; said proxy server intercepting this packet and reading the port number and creating another listening socket on the same port as the vendor port, and said application host initiating a connection to the vendor port on the proxy server which in turn initiates a connection to the vendor port on the license server and relays the packets back and forth between the application hosts and the appropriate license server."

This is neither taught nor suggested by the Mikurak reference for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Claim 12 calls for "A system for providing a secure access of one or more partners to the development environment of an owner comprising: means for starting a VPN tunnel between workstations to establish a secure encrypted tunnel end to end wherein each partner is identified with a different VPN group/password; means for starting a session by the partner in a Web page on a portal machine that authenticates through LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) a user identification and password of a user; means for routing the session to an engagement box depending on the a user where the engagement boxes each include a server with an operating system

and are on network segments separated by firewall boxes with another logon/password and is validated through second LDAP and wherein all users of the same partner are all launching on the same engagement box; means for accessing data and applications from an engagement box on Network File system storage authenticated second LDAP to a design zone common resource of said owner with a big compute farm composed of many high-end servers in a secure way; means for submitting batch or interactive jobs to said design zone; and means for providing for each application host in said design zone a highly secure access to EDA licenses from license servers with dynamically changing access ports of said owner inside an Intranet of said owner without opening all such access ports for all hosts and creating security risk comprising:

a license proxy server in said design zone that determines the dynamically changing access ports of the license servers in said Intranet; and
said application hosts inside said design zone contacting the license proxy server which in turn fetches the appropriate EDA licenses from said license servers in said Intranet of said owner.”

Claim 12 calls for limitations similar to amended Claim 1 and is deemed allowable over Mikurak for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 13 calls for “ A method for providing a secure access of one or more partners to the development environment of an owner comprising the steps of : starting a VPN tunnel between workstations to establish a secure encrypted tunnel end to end wherein each partner is identified with a different VPN group/password; starting a session by the partner in a Web page on a portal machine that authenticates through LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) a user identification and password of

a user; routing the session to an engagement box depending on the user where the engagement boxes each include a server with an operating system and are on network segments separated by firewall boxes with another logon/password and is validated through second LDAP and wherein all users of the same partner are all launching on the same engagement box; accessing data and applications from an engagement box on Network File system storage authenticated second LDAP to a design zone common resource of said owner with a big compute farm composed of many high-end servers in a secure way; submitting batch or interactive jobs to said design zone; and providing for each application hosts in said design zone a highly secure access to EDA licenses from FLEXLM controlled servers of said owner inside an Intranet of said owner without a security risk of opening all ports greater than 1023 for all hosts in the design zone, where FLEXLM has a manager daemon and a vendor daemon and said vendor daemon has a random changing port number above 1023 for access and said manager daemon listens on a known TCP port that is greater than 1023 and when an application host makes a connection to this known port FLEXLM replies back with the port on which the vendor daemon is, comprising the steps of:

providing a license proxy server inside the design zone that listens on the FLEXLM manager port and intercepts EDA license requests by the application host and initiates a connection to a manager daemon of said license server on behalf of the application host, said license manager responding with port number of the vendor daemon in a reply packet; said proxy server intercepting said reply packet and reading the port number and creating another listening socket on the same port as the vendor port, and said application host initiating a connection to the vendor port on the proxy server and said proxy server

initiating a connection to the vendor port on the license server and relays the packets back and forth between the application hosts and the appropriate license server.”

Claim 13 calls for limitations similar to that of both claims 1 and 11 and are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 14 calls for limitations similar to claim 13 and is deemed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

Since there is no other reason for rejection, applicant’s claim 1, as amended, and newly added claims 11-14, are deemed allowable and an early notice of allowance is deemed in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted;


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